

## **Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, December 6, 2004**

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, December 6, 2004, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

### Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair  
Vice Chair Sandy Kane  
Brian Rolston  
Councilmember Susan Horne

Gabe Kelemen

### Town Staff Present

Calvin Grove  
Mike Bomgardner  
Nick Colonna  
Mark McCartney

### Ad Hoc Committee Members Present

Dawn Barrett    Al Lewis

### Citizens Present

Jeanne Gohn  
Phil Marshall  
Craig Lane

1.     *Minutes:* On **motion** by Brian Rolston, **seconded** by Susan Horne, the **minutes of the November 1, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved** as presented.
  
2.     *Public Comment:* Jeanne Gohn and, later, Phil Marshall addressed the Committee regarding the all-way stop request for Autumn Willow Way and Marshall Street. This item was referred to the Committee by the Town Council, with a request that the Committee report their recommendation to the Town Council's December 13 work session. Mike Bomgardner reported that speed studies showed average speeds of 27 mph in both directions, significantly below the 31 mph speed threshold set by the adopted policy. The area has some pedestrian usage, as elementary school students cross to a path into Leesburg Elementary School. Calvin Grow reported that if all-way stop signs were authorized that staff would recommend relocating the crosswalk to the west, since it is so far east of the intersection that they believe eastbound traffic simply will ignore a stop sign. Mike Lundsford of the School administration indicated that he would let staff know whether the crosswalk could be monitored by a crossing guard and, if not, it could be marked for 15 mph during opening and closing times under the Council's existing resolution. Calvin Grow also noted that parking lanes and a centerline could be marked on the street, visually narrowing the travelway. Liz Whiting related that on-street parking on the north side of Marshall Street obscured observation of the trail leading into the school. Committee members supported staff's contention that stop signs are ineffective as speed reduction devices, reporting that Arlington County staff reported that also was their experience and that the goal of their traffic-calming program was to bring speeds consistently down to the speed limit. Mr. Marshall and Ms. Gohn indicated that would be a welcome result. On **motion** by Gabe Kelemen, **seconded** by Sandy Kane, the

Committee **unanimously recommended that parking lanes and center lanes be marked on the street and 15 mph school zone warning lights and signs be installed (if the School Board indicated crossing guards will not be assigned to the intersection) as soon as practicable; and that the Committee also advise the Town Council that the Committee believes that this location is appropriate for a crosswalk “cushion” following the Arlington County model as a longer term solution.** Liz Whiting will write a letter to the Town Council reporting the Committee’s recommendations and Brian Rolston plans to attend the work session.

3. *Woodlea Manor, Greenway Farms and Bradfield Drive (Country Club Subdivision) Citizen Ad Hoc Committee:* Ad Hoc Committee Chair Al Lewis and Vice-Chair Dawn Barrett reported that their committee met, reviewed reports that Calvin Grow had provided, assigned all of their members the responsibility of viewing reported problem areas and developing descriptions of the source of the problems and the attributes of solutions. Dawn Barrett and Al Lewis also raised the possibility of temporary/trial marking of suggested traffic calming measures that the communities could react to. Arlington County photos distributed by Calvin will be used as a starting point, with the Task Force Report, for identifying traffic calming measures appropriate to the nature of the problems identified. The Ad Hoc Committee plans to convene at 6pm January 3, 2005 to discuss their observations. Dawn Barrett and Al Lewis were encouraged to take copies of the “Intrigue and Uncertainty” article Nick Colonna provided. Liz Whiting encouraged the Ad Hoc Committee read it and “get wild” with the possibility of a traffic-calming event that could try out various concepts with temporary devices that would then be returned to the safety of their yards.
4. Calvin Grow forwarded figures Mike Socha provided to Kathleen Leidich indicating that Saf-T-Ride usage continues to grow and related that we were entering a season where the historical usage increases. Staff will graph historical usage figures to allow comparison by comparable periods over time for the next meeting.
5. *Smart Trailer and selective enforcement reports:* Mark McCartney reported that Smart Trailer and selective enforcement results and provided copies of complaint and selective enforcement locations compiled for the SW Ad Hoc Committee.
  - 11/27/04 – Shanks Evans Road near Candlewood Place – Average speed 22 mph
  - 11/13/04 – Sycolin Road north of Tavistock Drive southbound – Average speed 38 mph
  - 11/05/04 – Sycolin Road near Lawson Road northbound – Average speed 39 mph
  - 11/01/04 – Morven Park Road near Heritage Hall northbound – Average speed 26 mph
6. *Parking lane installation on Catoctin Circle SW:* Mike Bomgardner reported that the parking lanes had been painted and that calls to the Town indicated

that they were favorably received. Staff will provide follow-up studies to track the results for the next meeting.

7. *Historic District signs on Rt. 15 north of Town limits:* Mike Bomgardner reported that he had not had any response from Don Paden at VDOT and that Marantha Edwards was out of the office. This item will be on the January agenda for further report.
8. *Pedestrian crosswalk enforcement at Market Street at Wirt and Liberty Streets and at Marshall Street at Autumn Willow Way:* Mark McCartney indicated there were no enforcement statistics to report.
9. *LSRTC mid-year budget update:* Calvin Grow reported that \$20,000 was the estimated cost of extending the By-pass fencing south from its existing terminus (where the wire fencing was immediately cut after the fence was extended north). On **motion** by Sandy Kane, **seconded** by Gabe Kelemen, the Committee **unanimously recommended a midyear budget request for \$20,000 to extend fencing along the west side of the By-pass south from its existing terminus to the area where the culvert begins.** The Committee also requested that staff restudy the volume of pedestrian crossing of the By-pass in this area in order to supplement the information provided to the Town Council in support of this request.
10. *FY '05 Budget Recommendations:* The Committee noted that they had approved (i) engineering the Edwards Ferry Road/Plaza Street “pinchpoint” improvements at the estimated figure of \$10,000; (ii) authorized up to \$20,000 to upgrade downtown crosswalk marking to use the imprinted brick asphalt marking and (iii) continued to hope to improve a wayfinding sign installation entering Leesburg from the north on N. King Street with landscaped enhancements. Calvin Grow reported that the wayfinding sign will be installed north of the right-turn entry into Ida Lee Park. Calvin confirmed that the \$200 add-on penalty zone for speeding in this area begins at the intersection of Oakcrest Manor Drive and N. King Street. The Committee felt that a landscaped entry feature just south of Ida Lee Drive might be appropriate and was consistent with the FY 2005 budget request. Staff will report on the logistics and feasibility of such an installation at the January meeting and provide a photo of the area.
11. *Arlington Field Trip:* Calvin Grow, Liz Whiting and Sandy Kane reported that the Arlington trip was a great success, although they were disappointed more members of the Committee, Ad Hoc Committee and Council were unable to attend. Calvin distributed copies of Arlington County’s materials and photos taken during the tour. Arlington staff have offered consultation and supporting materials as they relate great success with implementation of their program and the lessons they have learned from other efforts. Liz Whiting will prepare a thank-you letter for Arlington’s support and assistance.

12. *Update of Residential Traffic Management Plan:* Calvin Grow, Mike Bomgardner, Liz Whiting and Sandy Kane all noted that Arlington County and Alexandria materials indicated that traffic-calming treatment was appropriate when 85th-percentile speeds exceed five miles over the posted speed, a threshold lower than the current program of 31 mph or greater average speed. The Committee agreed that this supported the recurring perception of dangerous speeds when reports showed less than the existing policy of 31mph or greater average speeds. The Committee agreed this was an important item to revisit during the plan update.
13. All way stop request at Marshall Drive and Autumn Willow Way: See Item 2.
14. Enforcement of 25 mph speed limit on Woods Edge Drive: The cut-through traffic on Woods Edge Drive will be solved when Battlefield Parkway is opened in January, 2005.
15. *Committee member concerns:* No Committee member concerns were raised outside matters earlier reported.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, January 3, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.